

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An optical head apparatus capable of stably obtaining a detection signal of spherical aberration even with a high density optical disk. A spherical aberration error signal is obtained by: dividing the returning light
5 from the optical disk into a transmitted light and a diffracted light;
reproducing information with the transmitted light having a larger amount of light while dividing the diffracted light having a small amount of light into two regions, i.e., region near the optical axis and a region distant from the optical axis; determining amounts of focus deviation in respective regions as
10 focus error signals; and taking the difference signal therebetween. Thus, it is possible to detect the amount of spherical aberration with the SN ratio of the information reproducing signal kept at high level.

"Express Mail" mailing label number EL 920771626US
Date of Deposit October 10, 2001
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09975396-101001